

## Mural Selection Process

In early 2021, Sangamon County appointed a Mural Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the county on what artists and concepts to use on the two large mural spaces that would be located installed at the Springfield Sangamon County Transportation Hub ("The Hub").

The members of the Mural Advisory Committee included (*titles included were the members' titles at the time of mural selection process*) elected officials, county and city representatives, stakeholders, artists and local neighborhood presidents: Brytton Bjorngaard (*Director of Visual Arts at UIS*), Scott Dahl (*Director of the Springfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau*), Linda Douglas Williams (*Sangamon County Board Member, District 20*), Bruce Ferry (*Ferry & Associates Architect*), Julia Frevert (*Communications Director for the City of Springfield*), Shawn Gregory (*Springfield Alderman, Ward 2*), Angela Harris (*President of the Pioneer Park Neighborhood Association*), Zhavier Harris (*Hampton University Graduate & Marketing Professional*), Karen Hasara (*Trustee of SMTD*), Tom Hutchinson (*President of Mather & Wells Neighborhood Association*), Brian McFadden (*Administrator at Sangamon County*), Steve Schoeffel (*Director of SMTD*), Michelle Smith (*Local Artist*), Erin Svendsen (*Education Director at Springfield Art Association*), Senator Dorris Turner (*District 48*) and Brian Wojcicki (*President of Downtown Springfield, Inc.*).

The Mural Advisory Committee opted to largely follow the process that the Illinois Capital Development Board Art-in-Architecture program uses which includes two phases. The committee developed and approved a Request for Qualifications to attract applicants. It was posted on the county website on May 3, 2021 and applications were accepted through June 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. There was a press announcement, and it was sent to local and national arts organizations to share the notice of RFQ. Advisory committee members also shared the opportunity. There were 49 applications that were received before the deadline.

There were two phases in the RFQ. In the first phase, the committee reviewed all of the applications and scored each artist/team based on Aesthetic Quality, Skill & experience in large-scale murals. Based on the top scores, the committee narrowed the original pool to included the artists/teams who received the most top scores among the committee members. The finalist pool included nine artists/teams. The committee invited these artists to submit a concept and supporting materials by September 30, 2021. Eight artists submitted concepts were paid a small stipend after submitting all of the required materials.

The committee met to review the eight concepts and deliverables. They scored each artists' concept based on Aesthetic Quality, Suitability & Relevance and Skill & Past Performance. The committee decided to add up each committee member's score under each category and average the score. The top two artists to emerge were Danielle Mastrion and Jared Bader.

The committee worked with the artists on some revisions to their concepts and budgets. It presented the process and recommendations to the county board and they were approved.

Both artists committed to outreach with local students. In 2022, Bader hosted a paint day at Lincoln Magnet School where students from schools around Sangamon County participated and helped paint portions of the mural. Bader also hired a local artist to help him install the mural. Also in 2022, Mastrion invited high school students from Sangamon County high schools to paint a mural in the courtyard of Southeast High School that includes some of the flora that she uses in her concept at the Hub.

The murals are being installed in 2023.